

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claim 1 is amended to more clearly define the invention. Claim 1 is independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicants also note that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 2-3 and 7-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable.

Claims 1 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Taranto reference in view of the Palmquist reference.

This rejection is respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as defined by, for example, independent claim 1, is directed to a lid lock apparatus for a glove box, which is attached to inside of a lid to engage hook portions with the glove box. The lid lock apparatus includes a swing member, a swing axis of which is swingably supported by a lid of the glove box, a pair of lock arms, which are disposed in a symmetrical manner with respect to the swing axis, extend in

a horizontal direction, and each includes the hook portion at a tip end thereof, and a subassembly member for bringing the lock arms close to each other and holding the lock arms and the swing member in a compacted subassembly state. The swing member is disposed in a symmetrical manner with respect to the swing axis and includes a pair of cam grooves. The lock arms include cam pins for engaging with the cam grooves to move the lock arms in opposite directions.

Conventional lid locks have included a pair of hooks and a link mechanism for coupling the hooks attached within a lid which increases the complexity of assembly and, as a result, increases the cost (page 2, lines 17-23).

Further, these conventional lid locks require adjustment to ensure smooth movement of the hooks which also increases the complexity of assembly and an increase in cost (page 2, lines 23-27).

Additionally, conventional lid locks require delivery of a number of individual parts which must then be assembled to the lid. This increases the risk of missing parts and management of parts. (Page 3, lines 1-4).

In stark contrast, the present invention provides a lid lock that includes a subassembly for holding a pair of lock arms and a swing member in a compacted subassembly state. In this manner, the present invention makes assembly and adjustment easier, reduces the number of working processes in the assembly, reduces the cost and makes management of the parts easier (page 3, lines 7-13).

II. THE 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTION

The Examiner alleges that claims 1-19 are indefinite. While Applicants submit that such would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art to allow them to know the metes and bounds of the invention, taking the present Application as a whole, to speed prosecution claim 1 has been amended in accordance with Examiner Estremsky's very helpful suggestions.

In particular, Applicants' note that the language regarding the "cam grooves extending with slanting" is directed to a feature of an exemplary embodiment of the invention which resists movement of the pair of lock arms away from each other in the direction of arrows "A" in Figure 16, unless the swing member 7 rotates in the direction of arrow "C." (Page 25, lines 14-21).

This Amendment removes the language regarding "cam grooves extending with slanting" from claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

III. THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

The Examiner alleges that the Palmquist reference would have been combined with the Taranto reference to form the claimed invention. Applicants submit, however, that the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

None of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of the claimed invention including a lid lock that includes a subassembly for holding a pair of lock arms and a swing member in a compacted subassembly state as recited by independent claim 1. As explained

above, this feature is important for making assembly and adjustment easier, reducing the number of working processes in the assembly, reducing the cost, and making management of the parts easier.

Rather, the applied references teach away from holding a pair of lock arms in a compacted subassembly state.

In particular, the Taranto reference discloses that “Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the longitudinal movement of connecting rod 30, in direction 68 occurs against the biasing force of springs 28 and 34. As a result, absent actuation of handle 16 or other forces sufficient to overcome the combined biasing forces of springs 28 and 34, latch mechanism 22 remains in the locked position illustrated in FIG. 4.” (Col. 3, lines 33-40). Therefore, the Taranto reference clearly teaches away from holding a pair of lock arms in a compacted subassembly state.

Similarly, the Palmquist reference discloses providing a spring 33 which “can exert its maximum strength for holding the fastener in locked position” (lines 115-117) where the fastener includes latching members 11 (lines 72-75). In other words, the Palmquist reference teaches providing a spring that biases the latching members away from each other and, therefore, clearly teaches away from holding a pair of lock arms in a compacted subassembly state.

Indeed, none of the applied references teaches or suggests anything at all that is even remotely related to any subassembly state at all, let alone a compacted subassembly state.

Indeed, the Examiner does not allege that any of the applied references teaches or suggests a subassembly for holding a pair of lock arms and a swing member in a compacted subassembly state as recited by independent claim 1.

None of the applied references teaches or suggests anything at all about how the structures that are disclosed by the applied references are assembled. As explained above, neither of the applied references teaches or suggests anything at all that is even remotely related to any subassembly at all, let alone a compact subassembly.

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 4-6.

IV. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

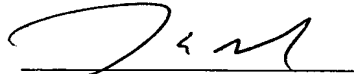
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-19, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 3/17/05


James E. Howard
Registration No. 39,715

McGinn & Gibb, PLLC
8321 Old Courthouse Rd., Suite 200
Vienna, Virginia 22182
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254